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BOOK REVIEWS

America and Britain. By Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin, A.M., LL.D., F.R.Hist.S. (New York: E. P. Dutton and company, 1919. 221 p. \$2.00 net)

Mr. McLaughlin's mission to Great Britain in the spring of 1918, which was the occasion for the delivery of the addresses at the University of London and elsewhere which are here collected and published, was in a sense semiofficial. He and his companion, Mr. Charles Moore, were sent by the war-emergency National board for historical service in response to a request from the other side, as part of a movement for knitting closer the bonds between the two great English-speaking countries. It was natural that Mr. McLaughlin should take as his theme the relations of America and Britain, and it is in keeping with his character that he handles this theme tactfully but at the same time without sacrifice of historical truth or the American point of view. "I am [un]willing," he characteristically says, "by glossing over the shortcomings and the faults of the past, to weaken any plea for good understanding now and in the future."

The first of the five addresses is devoted to a presentation of the reasons for America's entrance into the war and why she did not come in sooner. The second and third are devoted to a very interesting and suggestive general survey of British-American relations.

For the next address, on the Monroe doctrine, Mr. McLaughlin acknowledges his indebtedness to Hart's *The Monroe doctrine: an interpretation*. Probably historians as well as other people will continue to disagree as to what the Monroe doctrine means. It certainly does not help to a correct understanding of it to quote as genuine the alleged "secret treaty" of the congress of Verona (1822), in which the continental allies are represented as banding together to put down everywhere in Europe representative government and the liberty of the press, on the ground that the former is "as incompatible with the monarchical principles as the maxim of the sovereignty of the people with the divine right." Mr. McLaughlin is here doubtless misled by the currency given to the "treaty" by a certain senator. If he himself had investigated the evidence he would surely have been warned by the fact that Alison Phillips and other writers on the European concert know nothing of such a pact; that it is not to be found in Martens'

Recueil des traités; that Tétot, who does cite it in his *Répertoire*, does so merely to throw doubt on its genuineness; and that even Jonathan Elliott, whose *American diplomatic code* first gave currency to the document, knows nothing of it until his second edition in 1834.

The concluding address, on "The background of American federalism," is devoted chiefly to proving "that the essential qualities of American federal organization were largely the product of the practices of the old British empire as it existed before 1764."

The printer and proofreader evidently nodded at several places in this otherwise attractive book, for example, on pages 39, 40, 101, 150; but surely nothing short of inspiration can explain the expression (p. 71), "The American system of *providential* government!" A tragic explanation of the way these slips escaped the keen eye of the author is to be found in the simple dedication to the memory of his son, Captain Rowland H. McLaughlin, "who gave his life for the principles of justice and honor among nations at the Meuse, October 14th, 1918."

S. B. H.

The New America. By an Englishman, Frank Dilnot. (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 145 p. \$1.25)

This cleverly-written and rather gossipy little book is a sympathetic attempt to let Americans see themselves as others see them, as well as to give Englishmen better understanding of their "cousins across the sea." Most interesting are the author's impressions of the "Women of America," "American hustle and humor," and "Food, dress, drink and taxicabs." In the chapter "America at war" the characteristic spirit of the nation is brought out and the author comments on the soldiers, who display, he says, a "boyishness, fierceness and intensity totally unknown in the older nations." In the final chapter, "England through a telescope," an excellent summary of the present form of government of England is given and the unifying forces are pointed out which will bind together by closer ties the English and Americans of the coming generations.

History of Spain. Founded on the *Historia de España y de la civilización española* of Rafael Altamira. By Charles E. Chapman, Ph.D. assistant professor of history, University of California. (New York: Macmillan company, 1918. 559 p. \$2.60 net)

For nearly a score of years Hispanic-American students have used Rafael Altamira's scholarly volumes as a background for their historical work. Many have wished for a translation that would make this material accessible to the growing list of persons whose interest in Spain and its former colonies has outstripped their familiarity with the Span-